

of the lobbying corruption we have witnessed over the last year from the other side of the aisle.

PREACH ON, MR. PRESIDENT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our President was caught on camera, on microphone, and off the cuff yesterday. He said: "What they need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this (non-sense), and it's over."

He told Tony Blair he felt like telling U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to get on the phone with Syria's President and "make something happen." After all, that's Annan's job.

What he said was the truth. I am glad we got to hear his candor, his straight talk, his no nonsense analyzing the problem: Syria can stop this border war.

He stated: "Hezbollah is housed and encouraged by Syria and financed by Iran."

Our President left out the politically correct niceties and cut to the chase.

Mr. President, preach on, preach on. The blunt blazing truth without any fluff is what needs to be said. We know who is behind the attacks against Israel and we know who can stop it. It is time all people of the world hold the aggressive Hezbollah terrorist thugs accountable for starting this border war.

And that's just the way it is.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 4376, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts Act of 2005. This legislation authorizes the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the superb Springfield Technical Community College.

The Springfield Armory Museum is home to Longfellow's famous gun rack which inspired the arsenal at Springfield, home to the Springfield rifle, the Gerrand rifle, the site of Shay's rebellion and located on the Knox Trail which General Knox used and traversed as he moved to Boston and Dorchester for those fateful days of the American Revolution.

This legislation seeks to recognize and update the partnership between the Park Service and the college by authorizing the Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth to provide financial assistance to the college for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating and rehabilitating many of the historic structures within the Springfield National Historic Site.

This is a very important piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and it actually will allow a cooperative agreement to take place that will transform the complexion of what is also the site of the famous Olmstead Papers. I am grateful for this recognition that the House offered yesterday on behalf of these two individual sites.

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REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share good news with the American people. Republicans' pro-growth economic agenda, combined with spending restraint, is driving the deficit down while pushing revenues up. In fact, if we can continue along this path of fiscal restraint, we will cut the deficit in half by the year 2008.

In addition to decreasing the deficit, the economy has created 2 million new jobs in the past year. In fact, over the past 3 years America has created more new jobs than Japan and all 25 members of the European Union combined.

Mr. Speaker, tax cuts are working. Our economy is strong and the deficit is down.

Republicans have been working tirelessly and successfully to push our economy in the right direction. Democrats, on the other hand, continue to push their tax and spend policies, a plan which is neither good for the family checkbook nor the American economy.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Regional Health Forum that was held on July 7 in Los Angeles, California.

The Hispanic Caucus and Congressmember JOHN CONYERS from the Black Caucus came together with over 200 community activists to find a new direction to battle health care disparities in disadvantaged communities.

The new direction that we have adopted ensures quality health care that is accessible, affordable and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

An accessible and culturally sensitive health care system is critical to addressing conditions that disproportionately impact communities of color like, for example, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, HIV and AIDS, and mental illness. All these chronic illnesses affect our communities.

The new direction developed at the forum is one where community members, providers and policymakers at the local, State and Federal levels come together to collaborate to end health

care disparities; and we plan for solutions in the next upcoming congressional session.

We came together with the Hispanic Caucus at this forum in Los Angeles, and we will continue to take the show on the road throughout the country to ensure that all Americans have a healthier system of health care.

IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the time for an increase in the minimum wage has not just arrived; it is long overdue. The national minimum wage has not been increased in 9 years. By year's end, 21 States across America will have a minimum wage exceeding the Federal minimum wage. Isn't it about time that we in Washington recognize the need to act, to level the playing field? Of course it is. The way things are going, we are not too far from the day when it will take an hour's labor just to pay for the gasoline to get to the job. Then, if you are like most people and you want to go back home after you work, it is going to take you another hour's wages, 2 hours just for transportation for the minimum-wage worker.

What is left for the other essentials of life, to put a roof over your head and food on your table? Not very much.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, we need to act now to increase the national minimum wage.

QUESTIONING REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, here are some of today's headlines:

"Toll Climbs in Mideast As Fighting Rages On."

"Scores Killed in Bomb Attack Near Shiite Shrine."

"Three U.S. Soldiers Killed on Monday."

"Taliban Capture Two Afghan Towns."

"Oil Futures At \$75 a Barrel."

"Wholesale Prices Climb 0.5 Percent in June."

"Heat Wave Strains Electric Systems Nationwide."

The Republican Congress's response is banning gay marriage. It is an obvious connection.

On this day nearly 2,000 years ago, Emperor Nero played his fiddle while Rome burned to the ground. This Congress would make the Emperor proud.

With all the challenges facing our Nation here at home and abroad, the Republican leadership is trying to distract the American people by playing the same old tunes, writing discrimination into the United States Constitution.